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Dr. James Watson
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
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Dear Jim:

I am sorry we had so much difficulty coordinating our schedules yesterday (and gratified to learn that Ira got you a warm meal).

My comment on the phone about the possibility of holding a CSH Symposium on animal viruses was inspired by a nostalgic reading of the volume from the 1962 Symposium. Now, of course, it would be too late for a twenty-fifth anniversary, but it still might be useful to consider animal virology (or just virology), as a topic, even without a Silver Jubilee. Measurement of progress since 1962 and the new range of activity in animal virology are exhilarating. As the organizer of this coming year's Gordon Conference on Animal Cells and Viruses, I have been inspired by the developments in many areas (particularly virus structure, receptors, human disease, replicative strategies, and regulation). I know many of these topics, particularly those that emerge from tumor viruses, are frequently considered in CSH meetings, but I believe it might nevertheless be worthwhile to consider a Symposium in 1988 broadly based in virology. At the least, it would be entertaining to reconvene the many still active luminaries who were on hand in 1962.

Best regards,

Harold E. Varmus, M.D.
American Cancer Society
Professor of Molecular Virology

HEV/jm